

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4841

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR, PORG
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE VIEWS OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

1. THE HEAD OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S WORKING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS (ARLIA) RECENTLY (BEFORE DEPARTING FOR OAS MEETING) DISCUSSED THE GOA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MARCH UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS. ARLIA NOTED THAT THE MINISTRY WAS PLEASED THAT FORMER ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER DR. MARIA AMADEO WAS SELECTED TO THE SUB-COMMISSION FOR THE PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION OF MINORITIES.

2. THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS TAKEN A HARD AND DEFENSIVE POSTURE ABOUT DISCUSSIONS AT THE MEETING. ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA LED BY SWEDEN, AUSTRIA, FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES, ARLIA ASSERTED, DID NOT "SUBSTANTIATE A PERSISTENT AND SYSTEMATIC PICTURE OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS". FURTHERMORE, ARLIA NOTED THAT THE INTERVENTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION DID NOT CORRESPOND WITH "THE TEN POINTS FORMULATED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN" AND WERE OUT OF PHASE WITH OBVIOUS ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP.
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3. THE FOREIGN OFFICE ALSO CHARGED THAT THE UNITED STATES' "ERRONEOUS TACTICS DID NOT FORWARD HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT SACRIFICED COMMUNICATION AND POSSIBLY INFLUENCED AND RESURRECTED OLD QUESTIONS ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERVENTION".

4. IN COMMENTING ABOUT THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING, ARLIA SAID THAT THE UN MEETING HAD A CARNIVAL-LIKE ATMOSPHERE. ARGENTINA'S BASIC POINT REGARDING FALSE ACCUSATIONS, HE ADDED, WAS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE COMPLAINTS OF AN AMERICAN INDIAN, "FEATHERS AND ALL", AGAINST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. ARLIA STRESSED THAT ARGENTINA HAS COMPLIED WITH THE PERTINENT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN AND PROVIDED ALL THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ABOUT THE GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, AS WELL AS ABOUT CONCRETE CASES. ARLIA EMPHASIZED THAT THE MINISTRY'S STATEMENT REGARDING THE DOUBLE STANDARD IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION DEBATE WHERE SELECTIVE CHARGES ARE ALWAYS MADE AGAINST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES "TO SATISFY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION WHICH IS CREATED BY THE MASS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS CONTROLLED BY A SMALL NUMBER OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES" WAS ONLY THE OPENING OF A POSSIBLE REPEAT POSSIBLE ARGENTINE COUNTER-ATTACK. HE CONCLUDED, AS USUAL, WITH A PLEA FOR THE SPECIAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH ARGENTINA HAS HAD TO FACE AND UNDERLINED THAT THE GOA WAS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RETURN THE SITUATION TO NORMAL.
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